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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, give us hearts wide open to the joy and beauty of Your creative power. Enable the Members of this body to sense the transcendent in the beauty of the Earth and the glory of the skies. Help them hear Your music in the symphony of the seasons, in the whispering of the wind, and in the constellations of the night. May the sounds of nature's music lead our Senators to place greater trust in the movements of Your providence. Lord, give them the spiritual power they need to do Your will.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TOM UDALL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 21, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, there will be a period of morning business for an hour. During that time, Senators will be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each. The time will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. The Republicans will control the first 30 minutes; the majority will control the next 30 minutes.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message on unemployment insurance benefits, postclosure. If all postclosure debate time is used, the vote on passage would occur at approximately 9 o'clock tonight. I will continue to work with the Republican leader on an agreement to yield back time.

Upon disposition of the unemployment insurance legislation, we will move to the small business jobs bill. We will actually resume consideration of it; we have been on it before. Senators will be notified when any votes are scheduled.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the power of our democratic system is that everyone has a voice. The responsibility of that system is that once the votes are cast and counted, everyone must then accept and abide by the outcome. I deeply regret that too many of my Republican colleagues have yet to learn that lesson.

Let me explain as clearly as I can what happened in the Senate yesterday and what is continuing to happen this morning. I want to explain it especially for the tens of thousands of Nevadans and 2.5 million Americans waiting for the emergency unemployment assistance they have been told is on the way.

Yesterday afternoon, the Senate moved, at long last, to within one step—one simple-majority vote—of passing long-overdue help for the unemployed. This is emergency help for those who have exhausted their insurance benefits because these days it takes longer than ever before in recent memory to find a job. This is help for people who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own. Although they are still out of work, it is not for lack of trying. These are people who have tried and tried and tried to find work, who scour job listings, who send out resumes, who fill out applications, who go to interviews, but who have not had any luck for weeks and months and, in some cases, multiple years. At last count, there is only one open job for every five desperate Americans to fill it.

So after several tries and with the help of two courageous and good Republican Senators from Maine—SNOWE and COLLINS—yesterday we moved closer to that last step by an overwhelming vote, a vote of 60 to 40. In the unique world of the U.S. Senate, 60 to 40 can be seen as a razor-thin margin, but by any reasonable measure, it is a landslide. That vote, by the way, was entirely in line with the wishes of the people we represent—the people of Nevada, the people of New Mexico, all 50 States—who overwhelmingly demand that we—Republicans, Democrats, and Independents—pass this aid. The support for this bill comes from all over the country, both from those fortunate enough to collect a paycheck and those desperate to get an unemployment check.

By Senate rules, the maximum of 30 hours can elapse between the second to

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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